

Amendments to the Claims

1-26.(canceled)

27.(currently amended) A computerized method of formatting print data, comprising:

- establishing a higher level formatting rule for the print data;
- establishing lower level formatting rules configured to change the print data to conform to the higher level rule;
- establishing a fail safe rule that when applied to the print data conforms the print data to the higher level rule;
- applying the lower level rules to the print data; and
- applying the fail safe rule to the print data if applying the lower level rules to the print data does not conform the print data to the higher level rule.

28.(previously presented) The method of Claim 27 further comprising establishing a maximum of permitted change for one or more of the lower level rules and wherein applying the lower level rules to the print data comprises applying each lower level rule until the rule is met or until a maximum of permitted change for the rule is reached, whichever occurs first.

29.(previously presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein the higher level formatting rule comprises fitting all of the print data on one page and the fail safe rule comprises cutting the print data.

30.(previously presented) The method of Claim 27 wherein the print data comprises data representing one or more of static text, dynamic text, static graphics or dynamic graphics.

31.(previously presented) A computer readable medium having computer code thereon for:

establishing a higher level formatting rule for the print data;

establishing lower level formatting rules configured to change the print data to conform to the higher level rule;

establishing a fail safe rule that when applied to the print data conforms the print data to the higher level rule;

applying the lower level rules to the print data; and

applying the fail safe rule to the print data if applying the lower level rules to the print data does not conform the print data to the higher level rule.

32.(previously presented) The medium of Claim 31 having code thereon for establishing a maximum of permitted change for one or more of the lower level rules and wherein the code for applying the lower level rules to the print data comprises code for applying each lower level rule until the rule is met or until a maximum of permitted change for the rule is reached, whichever occurs first.

33.(previously presented) The medium of Claim 31 wherein the higher level formatting rule comprises code for fitting all of the print data on one page and the fail safe rule comprises cutting the print data.

34.(previously presented) The medium of Claim 31 wherein the print data comprises data representing one or more of static text, dynamic text, static graphics or dynamic graphics.

35.(new) The method of Claim 27 wherein the higher level formatting rule comprises fitting all of the print data on one page and the lower level formatting rules include two or more of reducing a font, shrinking photos and graphics proportional with a font, reducing a length of some data fields, or shrinking a margin.

36.(new) The medium of Claim 31 wherein the higher level formatting rule comprises fitting all of the print data on one page and the lower level formatting rules include two or more of reducing a font, shrinking photos and graphics proportional with a font, reducing a length of some data fields, or shrinking a margin.

37.(new) A computerized method of formatting print data, comprising:
establishing a higher level formatting rule for the print data;
establishing a lower level formatting rule configured to change the print data to conform to the higher level rule;
establishing a maximum of permitted change for the lower level rule; and
applying the lower level rule to the print data until the rule is met or until a maximum of permitted change for the rule is reached, whichever occurs first.

38.(new) The method of Claim 37, further comprising:
establishing a fail safe rule that when applied to the print data conforms the print data to the higher level rule; and
applying the fail safe rule to the print data if applying the lower level rule to the print data does not conform the print data to the higher level rule.

39.(new) A computer readable medium having computer code thereon for:
establishing a higher level formatting rule for the print data;
establishing a lower level formatting rule configured to change the print data to conform to the higher level rule;
establishing a maximum of permitted change for the lower level rule; and
applying the lower level rule to the print data until the rule is met or until a maximum of permitted change for the rule is reached, whichever occurs first.

40.(new) The medium of Claim 39 having code thereon for:
establishing a fail safe rule that when applied to the print data conforms the print data to the higher level rule; and

applying the fail safe rule to the print data if applying the lower level rule to the print data does not conform the print data to the higher level rule.

41.(new) In a system for creating documents from processed data, an apparatus for forming processed data comprising:

a data storage device;

a form engine connected to said data storage device for processing data according to a higher level formatting rule, lower level formatting rules configured to change data to conform to the higher level rule, and a fail safe rule that when applied to data conforms the data to the higher level rule, wherein the fail safe rule is applied to the data only if applying the lower level rules to the data does not conform the data to the higher level rule; and

an output device connected to the form engine for outputting formatted data processed by the form engine.

42.(new) The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein the data processed by the form engine comprises print data.

43.(new) The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein each lower level rule is applied until the rule is met or until a maximum of permitted change for the rule is reached, whichever occurs first.

44.(new) The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein the higher level formatting rule comprises fitting all of the print data on one page and the fail safe rule comprises cutting the print data.

45.(new) The apparatus of Claim 41 wherein the higher level formatting rule comprises fitting all of the print data on one page and the lower level formatting rules include two or more of reducing a font, shrinking photos and graphics proportional with a font, reducing a length of some data fields, or shrinking a margin.

46.(new) In a system for creating documents from processed data, an apparatus for forming processed data comprising:

a data storage device;

a form engine connected to said data storage device for processing data according to a higher level formatting rule and a lower level formatting rule configured to change data to conform to the higher level rule, wherein the lower level rule is applied until the rule is met or until a maximum of permitted change for the rule is reached, whichever occurs first; and

an output device connected to the form engine for outputting formatted data processed by the form engine.

47.(new) The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein the form engine further processes data according to a fail safe rule that when applied to the data conforms the data to the higher level rule, the fail safe rule being applied to the data only if applying the lower level rule to the data does not conform the data to the higher level rule.

48.(new) The apparatus of Claim 46 wherein the data processed by the form engine comprises print data.